



Safe Families.

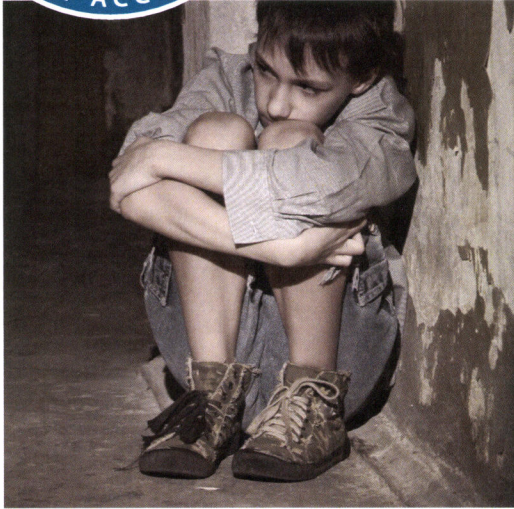
Protecting Kids | Preserving Families

SENATE JUDICIARY

Exhibit No. 1

Date 1/27/15

Bill No. SB186



THE TRAGEDY

400,000 children languish in foster care across the country. 70 percent of them are there because of neglect, not from sexual or physical abuse.

When crisis strikes at home, many of us turn to our family or church for support. But for too many parents, that safety net isn't there—and life can spiral out of control. Addiction, domestic abuse, incarceration, illness, unemployment, homelessness; it's during these crises that kids are at risk as their parents struggle.

The Department of Public Health and Human Services can't do it alone. But there is a proven solution that can help.

THE PROVEN SOLUTION

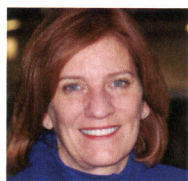
Since 2002, SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN and its thousands of volunteer families has offered support and hope for families in crisis. SAFE FAMILIES doesn't take kids from their parents. SAFE FAMILIES gives parents peace of mind that their children are protected and nurtured while they get clean, sober, working and back on their feet. The goal is to strengthen and preserve biological families so that they can better care for their children.

Through private charity, **SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN** meets three critical objectives:

- Protect:** A safe option that greatly reduces the number of kids entering the child welfare system.
- Prevent:** A safe, temporary home for a child while a parent in crisis gets help and support, preventing abuse and neglect without the threat of losing custody.
- Nurture:** An extended volunteer family to offer help, advice and support to parents who never had a social safety net to rely on.

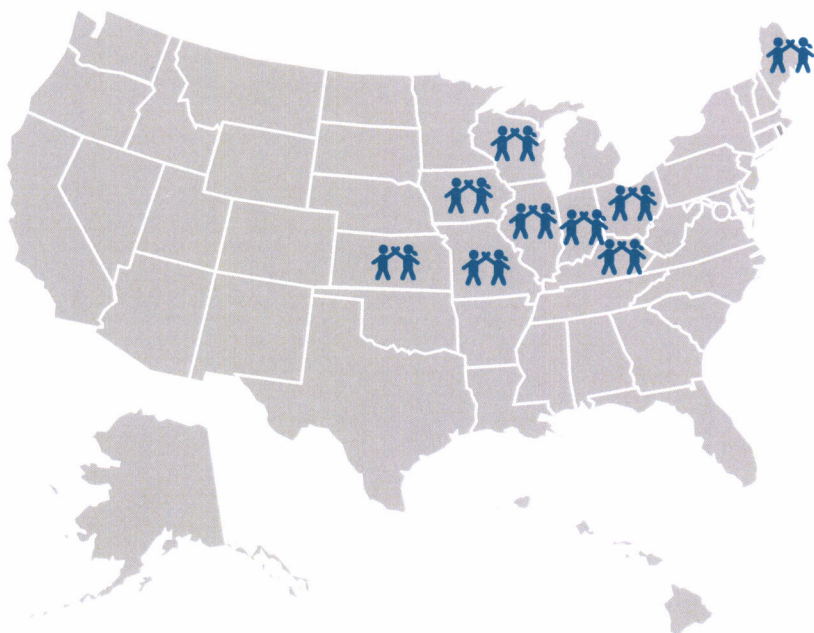
THE SAFE FAMILIES WAY:

- Volunteer families are extensively screened and supported
- Volunteer families are never paid or asked for money
- Biological parents maintain full custody of their kids
- Parents and kids are safely reunited as quickly as possible



- Denise Gonzales
Division of Child Protection, Illinois
Department of Children and Family Services

"Safe Families sounds too good to be true, but it really works."



SAFE FAMILIES direct programs with no legislative protection

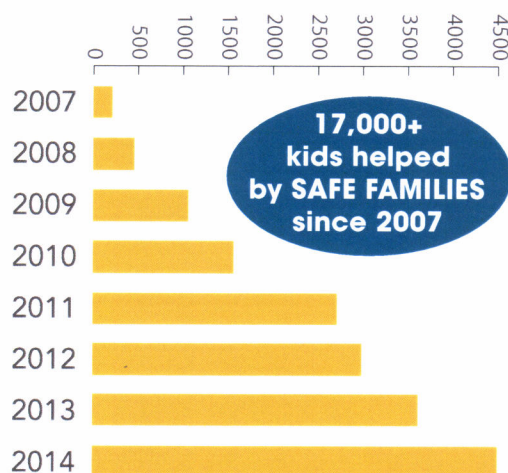
*International SAFE FAMILIES in Canada, United Kingdom, and Kenya

WHY SAFE FAMILIES STEPS IN

Homelessness	25%
Parental crisis	18%
Medical crisis	16%
Family conflict, child issues and lack of family support	14%
Mental health crisis	7%
Child protective investigation	6%
Substance abuse	5%
Domestic violence	3%
Job loss	3%
Prison	3%

MORE FAMILIES HELPED EVERY YEAR

Number of kids served by SAFE FAMILIES, by year



SAFE FAMILIES:

More Kids Helped, More Families Succeed

	Safe Families	Foster Care
Portion of kids served age 5 or younger	70%	38%
Average time a child spends away from parent(s)	44 days	717 days
Portion of kids that return home	88%	52%

For more information on SAFE FAMILIES:

TheFGA.org @TheFGA

FGA Senior Fellow
Andrew Brown
andrew@thefga.org